

# Fresno City Council District 1

July 2009

## Letter to the Residents

Dear District 1 Residents,

I understand that the budget continues to be a topic of discussion and concern for everyone, including myself in my role as your Council representative. I am working diligently with my colleagues and our Mayor to make sure that we live within our means and prepare for the future. The City of Fresno has been very fortunate that we carry a reserve, distinguishing us as one of the few Cities in California that has been able to pass a balanced budget. Even with the difficult times ahead, I believe that we will still be able to carry on a reserve for this year's budget. We will do this without losing services in our core area of public safety, city services, and infrastructure.

I have some great news for residents of District 1:

1. We've been able to open the Ashlan/99 corridor to Blythe. It will be extended to Cornelia in 2010.
2. We've been able to work with Fresno Unified School District to improve facilities at Fresno High School. The swimming pool has been upgraded and there is now an all-weather track & field.
3. We worked with the Tower Marketing Committee to bring additional capital and investment into the area. I am particularly proud of the 7-plus million dollars of investment that has been put into maintaining District 1. These investments range from much-needed infrastructure work in our district, a new police sub-station, to additional maintenance in our neighborhood parks.

Lastly, I ask all our neighbors to come together during these difficult times. This is the time that we need to strengthen our Neighborhood Watch programs, be involved in our communities, and watch out for each other. Difficult times will put many of us in difficult situations, and coming together as neighbors and communities will help all of us get through these tough times together.

I am always grateful for the opportunity to serve all of you, so please don't hesitate to call our office with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Blong Xiong  
Councilmember  
District 1



## Comments On 2010 City Budget

On May 18, 2009, Mayor Swearengin delivered her 2010 budget to the City Council. Councilmembers and their staffs spent the next two weeks reviewing this document, and City Council will spend the entire month of June debating its merits. Through that process, and by July 1, 2009, the City of Fresno will have an adopted budget that all of us can live with and help carry us into 2011, which is projected to be another very difficult year.

As Councilmember, my goals are to make sure that all core city services remain intact. Core services are public safety, city services, parks, and district and city-wide infrastructure. These services are a necessity for any city to run properly. This and the next budget year will be very difficult; however, as the 5<sup>th</sup> largest city in the state, we cannot stand still. We must move forward to prepare our city for its future growth.

Much of Fresno's future growth will occur in west Fresno, and in our District 1. To facilitate this growth, I will advocate not only for the core services mentioned above but for projects within the District. I have asked for continued development of the Universally Accessible Park.

*See Budget, Page 2*

## Quiet Zone

Hold those horns! The City of Fresno is in the process of constructing a Quiet Zone. Last year the City of Fresno invested \$100,000 toward the design and engineering of this project located along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway rail line in Downtown Fresno. This year, Community Regional Medical Center has provided a \$600,000 loan for the construction project running from the railroad crossing at Olive Avenue just east of Blackstone, south to the crossing at Ventura Avenue in downtown Fresno. The loan to the City is interest free, giving the City four years to repay Community Regional Medical Center.

The Quiet Zone, allowed by the Federal Rail Administration, is designed with

*See Zone, Page 2*

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## Upcoming Infrastructure in Our Neighborhoods

### Streetlights—Weber & Marks

- ♦ Widening the intersection to include turn lanes, pavement striping, curb, gutter and sidewalk, streetlights and a new traffic signal.

### Quiet Zone Railroads—Olive & Blackstone

- ♦ Horns to be silenced while trains pass (please see “Quiet Zone,” page 1.)

### Teague Elementary School—PG&E Pole

- ♦ PG&E poles will be moved, street widening, dedicated turn lane, flashing crossing beacon, bike lane, streetlights and many other improvements.

### Alley Gates—4 Alley Closures

- ♦ This fiscal year 4 alleys will be closed. For more information on closing your alley or to find out if your alley is one of the ones that will be closed, please contact District 1 staff at (559) 621-7816.

### Golden State—Phase 2

- ♦ We will continue upgrades to landscaping, curbs, & drainage between Ashlan & Shaw.

## Budget:

*Continued from Page 1*

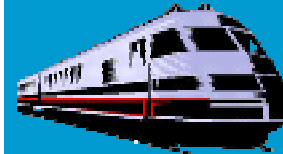
This will be the only regional park in NW Fresno and will attract folks from around the Central Valley. I will also continue to ask our City to develop needed traffic-calming measures in our neighborhoods. In addition, I'll advocate for sidewalks and infrastructure improvements in such areas as Quigley Park, where students and residents must walk through dirt and mud along Dakota Ave. I will continue to fight for tree-trimming services and repairs to gutters and sidewalks damaged by tree roots. These are just some of the issues that my office will be tackling this upcoming year.

There is no doubt that this year's budget is challenging, and our city is in a difficult time. But I believe that City Staff will show its strength and creativity as we all work to move our growing city forward.

## Zone:

*Continued from Page 1*

increased safety features at each railroad crossing to compensate for trains no longer blaring their horns. Each crossing has different requirements but a combination of crossing arms, flashing lights and directional horns will be used to notify traffic and pedestrians of on coming trains. Once complete, trains traveling along the BNSF rail lines will no longer be required to honk their horns when traveling through Downtown Fresno.



Pedestrian safety along the rail lines is a high priority. Mishaps occurs everyday across our city. Nowhere quite as often as here at City Hall, Community Regional Medical Center and the residential community near by. Pedestrians continually tempt fate by rushing to cross the tracks when they hear the horn of an on coming train blow. Part of the Quiet Zone is to enhance safety features such as fences and other barriers to be constructed along the rail lines where heavy pedestrian traffic is common.



This project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2009.

## INFRASTRUCTURE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Streetlights/Intersections

There is no denying that street and traffic lights are critical assets that make District 1 neighborhoods a much safer places to live. This year there have been many improvements to our district's traffic intersections and its residential-areas' street lights. This year's completed traffic intersection improvements includes:

#### Under Construction

- Clinton/Blythe

#### Upgrades

- Clinton/West
- Ashlan/Cornelia
- Golden State/Shaw

#### New

- Dakota/Marks

### Safe Routes to School

Have you ever seen children or teenagers crossing streets where there are neither crosswalks nor stop signs? Should it happen on the way to and from school? No. It is a

clear danger to our children to be crossing those streets without safety precautions. This year, District 1 has worked to make it safer for our children to get to and from school. Williams Elementary, Teague Elementary and Fresno High School have all seen improvements made to their neighborhoods. District 1 will continue to work with Fresno and Central Unified School District to identify school routes that are in need of upgrades.

### Competitive Edge

District 1 is also working to provide our youth with a competitive edge. We have worked with Fresno Unified School District to move forward the capital improvement projects at Fresno High School. You may have already noticed the construction work on the all-weather track. Now keep an eye out for construction to begin on a brand-new aquatic center. These two projects will replace outdated facilities and give the students

at Fresno High increased pride and a competitive edge.

### District Improvements

Every day improvements are being made in our district. This year there has been a new Walgreens added to our neighborhood at Ashlan and Cornelia, enhancing our progressive environment. Our Tree Damage project this year is being accomplished at Holland to Indianapolis, and Valentine to Marks. The project will include work being done on the sidewalks, gutters, and tree trimming. Meanwhile, our daily drives are made smoother by the repaving in District 1; for example, this year we have had repaving done at Fruit to West on McKinley, HWY 99 to Ashlan on Golden State, and Abby to the railroads on Olive. Whether the improvement is patching an uprooting side walk, repaving a street, or putting in a new convenient store, every improvement made in District 1 is of immense benefit to our district.

## 2009 Neighborhood Block Parties

### -Palm Avenue Community Church-

Palm Avenue Community Church, in collaboration with the City of Fresno Council District 1 Office, organized a Neighborhood Block Party on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 that ran for 4 hours. The block party was an opportunity for area residents to meet neighbors and seek information about City, County, and other neighborhood services. The event featured many different information booths, from City of Fresno Code Enforcement to the Fresno Chaffee Zoo. Not just information booths were there, but entertainment and live music were offered. Games were provided for the children, such as a bounce house, a physical fitness mobile, and face painting. The Fresno County Library sent in its book mobile. There were music, fun, and food for everyone to enjoy.



Palm Avenue Community Church  
Kids Zone



United Christian Church  
Cake Walk

### -United Christian Church-

For the past three years that Councilmember Blong Xiong has been in office, he and his staff have assisted United Christian Church in putting this popular event together. Every year United Christian Church provides city and county services for residents who seek them, with fun and entertainment for those who come to enjoy the breezy day with their neighbors. This time of the year is for building new relationships, whether with the government, a neighbor or the church itself. Our neighborhood becomes one step harder to break apart. The relationships we build will keep our district and city strong against anything thrown at us. All these relationships help to bind us together in a stronger sense of community. Block parties give us hope to keeping our neighborhoods standing tall!

### Old Hacienda Offers Tour

Mental Health Systems, Inc. (MHS) provided a free walking tour of its facility at the old Hacienda grounds on late afternoon Thursday, May 28, 2009.

Conducted by Jenny Bates, Regional Manager of MHS's Northern Region Administrative Office, the tour was an opportunity for Fresno City Council Districts 1 and 3 residents to see the over \$2.5 million in improvements that have been made to the facility. They were shown the areas for which substantial renovations are planned or are underway before for the entire MHS Fresno campus is fully operational.

MHS is very anxious to be an accessible part of its surrounding community. Thus, when facility renovations and construction are completed, MHS will be offering many of its facilities for occasional community use (the large swimming pool, for example, for such activities as swimming lessons).

If you are interested in taking a tour of the MHS campus, all you need do is call the Council District 1 office at 559-621-7816 for more information.

### A Special Thank-You

I had the opportunity to meet our future by attending Career Day at three schools recently. During those events, I had an amazing opportunity to talk with students and engaged them in terms of their future educational and employment aspirations. Thank you to West Fresno Middle School, Fresno High School and El Capitan Middle School for this opportunity.

I want to thank the students that came prepared and ready to talk about themselves and their goals. It gave me great joy to hear so many young people excited about their future and the opportunities available to them. I hope that I was able to provide some insights and assistance to all the participants, and I look forward to continuing to work with our schools and students in the future. I wish all of them a wonderful summer break and that their hopes and dreams are fulfilled.

- Councilmember Blong Xiong

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Earth Day Beautification

This year's Earth Day for District 1 was held on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the District's very own Quigley Park. Volunteers came as families and in groups with cheerful smiles and blissful energy -- some even brought their own gardening tools to do the day's work. After rules and safety precautions were reviewed, volunteers were sent out to their designated team leaders for task assignments. Many stayed within the park to sow seeds, plant trees and bushes, fertilize, and rake. Some painted

park structures and swept and cleaned the park & play structure. Volunteers who worked outside of the park's border collected trash and debris around the park and along the canals from West & Ashlan to Palm Avenue.



For more information in beautifying the City of Fresno join the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday Tower Beautification Committee in District 1 and District 3, contact: Gaylee Amend at (559) 237-6716.



## WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE --- NOT!

Just a reminder about our REVISED City of Fresno watering restrictions -- See the current residential watering schedule to the right, **and be aware of the new restrictions:** There is now **NO HAND WATERING FROM 6AM to 7PM** on any day. *City of Fresno watering spotters will be out there looking.....*

## SPRING/SUMMER WATERING SCHEDULE

(March 2– November 30)

**ODD Numbered**  
Address: (1, 3, 5, 7, 9)  
**Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday**

**EVEN Numbered**  
Address: (0, 2, 4, 6, 8)  
**Wednesday, Friday Sunday**

**NO WATERING MONDAYS**

**NO WATERING 6AM-7PM**

**FREE** swim from 1-5pm if the National Weather Service Forecasts a **high of 105+** at both pool and cooling centers.

### POOL LOCATIONS

**Entry Fee:** 75¢ for children & \$2 for adults

**Standard Pools** (Open: Mon.-Sun., 1-5pm)

- Airways
- Frank H. Ball
- Mary Brown
- Mosqueda

**High School Pool** (Open: Mon.-Sat., 1-5pm)

- Hoover High
- Roosevelt High
- Edison High

**Learner Pools** (Open: Mon.-Sat., 1-5pm)

- Einstein Park
- Fink-White Park
- Pinedale Park
- Quigley Park
- Romain Park

### COOLING CENTERS

**\*Cooling Centers**

**Open: 12-9pm**

**\*Free FAX bus rides to and from centers.**

**Route 32**

- Frank H. Ball

**Route 45**

- Melody Park

**Route 26 & 41**

- Mosqueda Park

**Route 30**

- Pinedale Community Center

**Route 34**

- Romain Park

**Route 22**

- Ted C. Wills Community Center

**For more information call (559) 621-2489.**

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



### Crime Prevention Officers

Linda Sigler.....(559) 621-3537  
Linda.Sigler@fresno.gov  
Tony Casarez.....(559) 621-6226  
Tony.Casarez@fresno.gov

Neighborhood watch is a team effort and a team participation. Are you interested in putting together a Neighborhood Watch program in your neighborhood? See the contacts above. Your participation will keep your neighborhood one step closer to being safe.

# Graffiti

Did your home or business just get tagged? Need help removing the graffiti on the wall, fence, etc.....?

DIAL:

# 621-TAGS

(8247)

## CODE

### ENFORCEMENT

Yellow grass, weeds, trash, debris on the front lawn? Inoperable vehicle? Home next door vacant? Poor condition? Questions?

**Pick-up the phone & call:**

# 621-8400

## RECYCLE USED BATTERIES

Is that shoe box under your bed piling up with disposable batteries? The County of Fresno holds an event twice a year to collect hazardous disposables and those batteries you have are considered hazardous. If you are interested in disposing those batteries call (559) 262-4259 for more information on the two dates scheduled for collection this year. If you are in need to dispose your batteries immediately visit <http://earth911.com/>, this website will be able to help you find a location near you that will take those batteries off your hands. With your help we can make our community a healthier environment for everyone.

## -District 1 Here to Meet Your Needs-

Whether it is helping residents address infrastructure needs, code enforcement, or legislation, the District 1 staff is here to assist you. We welcome visitors and look forward to receiving inputs about our neighborhoods.



### City Hall

2600 Fresno Street  
Fresno, CA 93721-3600

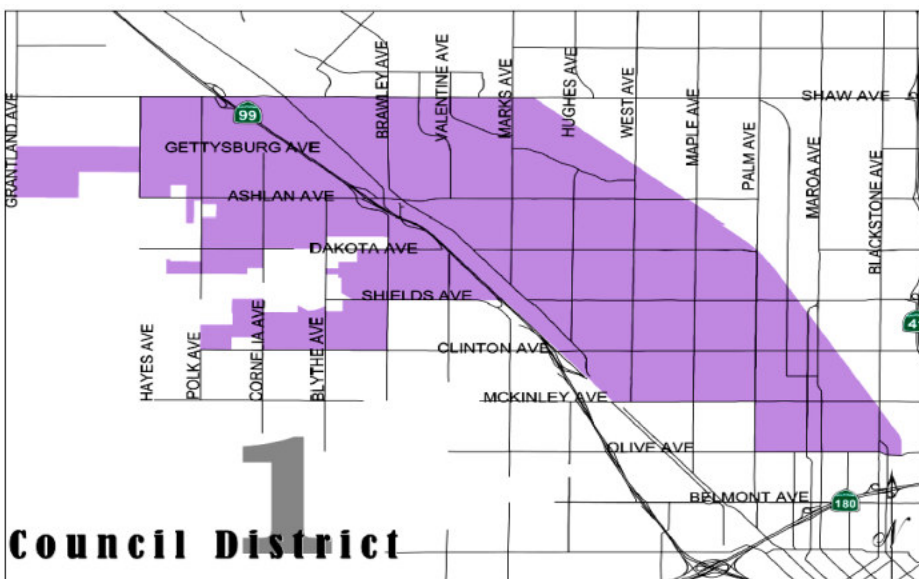
**Phone:** (559) 621-7816

**Fax:** (559) 268-1043

**Email:** [district1@fresno.gov](mailto:district1@fresno.gov)

**Website:** [www.fresno.gov](http://www.fresno.gov)

*\*Please feel free to contact District 1 staff for any assistance.*



# Council District 1

*Special thanks to our volunteer, John Hodges.*

-District 1